

Greece drops threat to expel Syrian

ATHENS (R) — Greece dropped a threat to expel a Syrian diplomat Monday after it received an explanation from Damascus about comments he made on political violence. Greece had received assurances from Syria that the controversy over a letter to a Greek newspaper by its economic counselor Mohammad Al Sayed was a result of a printing error, government spokesman Byron Polydoras said. "The Greek government considers these explanations to be satisfactory and considers the matter closed," he added. Sayed, posted in Athens since 1976, wrote the letter to deny allegations in a newspaper report that he was involved in guerrilla activity. In the letter he said he was "a scientist and a religious man and naturally I do not entirely reject all forms of violence in political activity."

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Kuwait's elections expected in June

KUWAIT (R) Elections for a new parliament in Kuwait are expected to be held in June, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said Monday. Briefing local editors on Sunday's emir's decree reviving the national assembly, Sheikh Saad said in reply to a question: "I cannot now set an election day, but I can determine the month. My expectations are an emir's decree will provide for voting to take place in the second or third week of June. A month after the elections, the first parliamentary session will be held." The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who dissolved the previous parliament in 1986, said Sunday a new assembly would be set up in response to popular demand for the restoration of representative government. (See page 2).

Arafat seeks support for summit

KUWAIT (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Kuwait Monday to seek support for an Arab summit to discuss Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel. Palestinian officials said Arafat also held talks with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on the Palestinian uprising. Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said last night Kuwait backed a PLO call for an Arab League summit. Arafat arrived from Saudi Arabia, where he met King Fahd Sunday night in Mecca after performing a minor pilgrimage.

Turkey explains AWACS flight

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said a recent flight by an American AWACS jet, which Iraq alleged was close to its border, was in fact a NATO flight over Turkish territory hundreds of kilometres from the frontier. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. chargé d'affaires in Baghdad last Saturday to explain a flight by a U.S. AWACS (airborne warning and control system) plane. "The flight mentioned by Iraq was by an AWACS plane of the NATO alliance and was made 300 kilometres from Iraq's borders," acting Foreign Ministry's spokesman Ferhat Ataman said. He said the flight was routine. "There is no aspect of the flight which should disturb the Iraqi authorities," Ataman said. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said April 21 that the plane flew for seven hours in Turkish airspace close to the Iraqi frontier.

Namibia becomes 160th U.N. member

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The fledgling nation of Namibia was admitted to the United Nations by acclamation Monday as its 160th member, a month after attaining independence from South Africa. The Namibian delegation received a tumultuous ovation as a delegation led by Prime Minister Hage Geingob took its seat in the gold and blue General Assembly hall. Namibia became independent March 21 after years of struggle against South African rule and a year-long operation by thousands of U.N. troops and civilians to monitor the territory's transition to statehood.

19 killed in rocket barrage on Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — Nineteen people were killed and 11 wounded when guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government fired rockets into Kabul Monday, Kabul Radio said. One of four surface-to-surface missiles fired by rebels landed near Haji Yamn mosque in central Kabul killing 13 people, the official broadcaster, monitored in Islamabad said. Three people were killed in a house hit by a rocket and three more died elsewhere in the capital.

U.S. denies visa to PFLP official

TUNIS (R) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said Monday the United States had denied one of its leaders a visa to attend meetings of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. A PFLP statement said Tayyib Qasab, a member of the PFLP political bureau, was to have gone to New York as part of the Palestinian delegation. It did not say where he applied for a visa or when the United States refused to issue one.

7 killed in Israeli air collision

TEL AVIV (R) — Seven Israeli soldiers were killed when two military helicopters collided in mid-air during training over the occupied West Bank Sunday night, the army said Monday. The U.S.-made Sikorsky CH-53 transport helicopters crashed in darkness at 9:40 p.m. (1840 GMT) Sunday night but military censors withheld news of the accident until Monday. It was the worst Israeli air accident since 1977, when 54 soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash.

Two boys shot dead in Gaza, Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinian boys shot by Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories died of their wounds Monday, Israeli and Palestinian sources said.

Soldiers shot and injured Musa Al Alani, 14, in the West Bank village of Beit Ummar near Hebron Sunday evening and he died in a Jerusalem hospital of his wounds, the sources told Reuters.

The second boy, 10-year-old Yousef Kishawi, was shot in the head by Israeli troops at Shati refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip. He died in an Israeli hospital Monday, military sources said.

Hours after the clashes between troops and Palestinians in Ben Ummar Sunday when Al Alani was wounded, unidentified assailants near the village opened fire on an Israeli bus and wounded one passenger in the thigh.

Security forces imposed a curfew on the area of Ben Ummar and were searching for the assailants.

On Sunday 20 Palestinians were injured in clashes with Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip.

In Arab-Jerusalem, merchants opened their shops Monday after Palestinian activists cancelled strike calls by the United National Leadership of the Uprising.

A strike to show Christian-Muslim solidarity was called for Sunday in the wake of a recent move by Jews to set up a settlement in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. A second day of strikes was called for Monday in support of "liberated" villages.

The two-day strike order, contained in the latest unified leadership leaflet, has angered many Palestinians because it comes in the middle of the shopping period before the three-day "Eid Al Fit" holiday later this week.

On Sunday, activists in the West Bank towns of Nablus, Tulkarem and Qalqilya issued counter leaflets cancelling the strike order, and Jerusalem joined Monday. The strikes were observed elsewhere in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

It was the first time since the start of the uprising in December 1987 that local activists have disobeyed closure calls by their underground leaders.

Swiss hostages to be released soon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — A Sunni Muslim militia leader said Monday two kidnapped Swiss relief workers working for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) would be freed soon.

"This crisis will end in the nearest future," Mustapha Saad, the chief of the Popular Liberation Army (PLA) which controls the southern city of Sidon told Viasnews television news agency.

He said they could be freed by the first day of the "Eid Al Fit."

The two are believed held by Palestinians belonging to the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), led by Abu Nidal. The group has denied any links with

Jordan urges change in ACC approach to oil

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The oil and energy ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen opened a meeting Monday to agree on a better exploitation of oil and gas resources in the service of Arab strategic interests and national security in the face of international challenges.

Jordan's Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Thabet Taher told the meeting that the four member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) need to change their concept of dealing with oil and gas resources as only a material for export and to link such resources to economic development.

Taher noted in his speech that despite the fact that the Arab states possess 60 per cent of the world's oil reserves and 22 per cent of gas reserves, consumption in the Arab World amounts to four per cent of world consumption, while the Arab population is two per cent of the world population.

He pointed out that Arab states possess only a small percentage of world reserves of commercial energy in which gas and oil represent only 15 per cent.

"This means that continuing world dependence on these main resources (oil and gas) will lead to the depletion of oil and then gas, which will make Arab states, whose exports represent 54 per cent of world exports, and less of gas, within 40 years, importers of energy," Taher said.

He warned that "if we looked at energy consumption in Arab states between 1984 and 1988, we would find that it increased with an annual rate of 5.4 per cent despite the econ-

omic slowdown witnessed in the region."

He said this percentage was relatively very high compared with consumption rates in developing countries which range around 3.5 per cent.

He explained that production chances available for the Arabs are less than fifth of the chances available for people in industrial states.

ACC Assistant Secretary General Hisham Hassan Tawfiq said in an open speech earlier that cooperation among member states "has positive implications on solidifying national security of these states as well as serving the Arab Nation's national security in general."

Tawfiq said that the council's political and security achievements in the first year "are no less important than achievements in the economic field."

He pointed out to solidarity expressed by member states vis-a-vis the Western media campaign against Iraq in the last few weeks.

Taher urged the oil ministers to "recognise the importance of the concept of production and economic infrastructure by linking them through institutions with cooperation towards Arab economic integration, on the level of ACC states as well as on the comprehensive Arab level."

The minister called for the establishment of a unified Arab energy market to operate first at the level of

(Continued on page 5)

Reformists set up 'democratic bloc' in federation of unions

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The formation of a "reformist" bloc within the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) was announced Monday afternoon subsequent to the withdrawal Sunday of 10 member unions from the 217-member organisation's election of its executive committee.

Rashid said that a 10-member committee, representing the 10 unions that refused to take part in Sunday night's elections, would lead the bloc in the federation's discussions and deliberations. He named himself and Khalil Abu Khurma, president of the Public Services Union, as president and vice president of the bloc. The other eight members all currently hold the post of president of their respective unions.

A memorandum announcing the formation of the bloc outlined the bloc's main demands for change and reform in the FJLU.

The memo:

— Contested the legality of the present executive committee and declared all decisions taken by it as null and void;

— Called for freezing the membership of the present leadership of the federation in all local, pan-Arab and international organisations and forums;

— Called for freezing all funds of the federation because the bloc

is contesting the committee's handling of its finances;

— Called for an immediate investigation into the committee's dealings, financial and otherwise;

— Called on the members of the federation who have not violated the labour law to serve as a caretaker committee which would supervise and monitor the "transitional" period pending reform.

The bloc also announced that it was not the equivalent of a "disuniting" movement and "does not reflect differences in political currents within the federation or unions."

"We are concerned with principles not politics," said Rashid.

"Incorrect and irresponsible practices and excesses have characterised this federation for too long. It must now live up to the democratic standards being set in the rest of the country and shape up," he added.

The federation was formed in 1952 and grew to represent up to 22 labour and trade unions in Jordan by 1976. A change in the

(Continued on page 5)

Blockade threatens Lithuanian refinery

VILNIUS (Agencies) — Lithuania's only oil refinery began closing down Monday due to lack of supplies five days after Moscow cut back deliveries of key goods to the breakaway republic, a spokesman at the plant said.

"They started shutting down the refinery at 1200 (0900 GMT), said the spokesman at the Mazeliukai installation in northern Lithuania, near the Latvian border.

Oil supplies to the refinery were cut as part of Kremlin moves to force the Lithuanian parliament to abandon its March 11 declaration of independence and a series of laws reinforcing it.

The spokesman said supplies of other materials for repair work

had also been affected. It was up to the government, he said, to decide the fate of the plant's 3,000 workers.

The most visible sign in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, of Moscow's economic siege was a noticeable drop in traffic. Motorists have been rationed to just 30 litres (eight gallons) of petrol a month.

Many Lithuanian factories are expected to start closing and to lay off workers in the next few days as curbs on supplies of raw materials begin to bite.

Lithuania's president said that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could jeopardise his political reforms by not ruling out the use of Soviet troops in the secessionist republic.

Vilnius' main thoroughfare, Gedimina street, was practically devoid of motor vehicles Monday as Lithuanians struggled with gasoline rationing that limits them to just 30 litres (about seven gallons) per month for private cars. Bus service among cities also was reduced sharply.

The British Broadcasting Corporation quoted Gorbachev's senior military adviser, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, as saying the Red Army would not hesitate to use force to crush illegal protests in Lithuania.

"If the Lithuanian separatists break the law, then we will take measures to enforce the law. I am not afraid of using force if necessary," he said in an interview for broadcast on the BBC-TV's "Panorama" programme.

Yevtuas Landsbergis, the republic's president, also asked the Lithuanian parliament, the supreme council, to draw up emergency plans to deal with the mass layoffs expected in the republic on May 3.

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Coup crushed in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military强人 announced that loyalist forces crushed an attempted coup by active-duty and retired military officers early Monday, the second reported attempt in a month to oust the year-old junta.

Informed sources in Khartoum said the army appeared to have had little trouble putting down a series of attacks by junior army officers.

Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir told his people of the episode in a speech broadcast at midday over Radio Omdurman, the government's official station.

He said loyalists had arrested the insurgents and restored the government's control. He did not say how many were in custody or give any casualty figures.

"All those involved in the attempt have been arrested, those who are in active service and those who are retired," Bashir said.

Sounding calm, the junta leader said his government had had the plotters under surveillance from the takeover's inception. He said without elaboration that the abortive coup was masterminded by "the alliance in coalition with the outlaws."

"The alliance" could have been a reference to political parties Bashir disbanded after taking power last June 30. Government spokesman often use "outlaws" to refer to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) which began in 1983 a rebellion for autonomy in the three regions of southern Sudan.

The sources, who spoke on

condition they not be further identified, said the action began at midnight (2200 GMT Sunday).

The coupmakers tried to take over Khartoum airport and Radio Omdurman, the government's official radio station, but were quickly overpowered and arrested, the sources said.

They said several officers also tried to shoot their way into the downtown headquarters of the Armed Forces General Command, apparently in search of Bashir. They could not get through the front gate.

A guard at the General Command was wounded in the hand, the source said, but there was no further word on casualties.

Khartoum airport was closed briefly and telecommunications were cut for several hours. But by midmorning, life was normal in Khartoum, although rumours were spreading of trouble during the night.

"It was an attempted coup around midnight by a small number of very low-level officers," said a source who said he was told of the abortive coup by people at the General Command.

"They tried to take over the airport and the radio in a rather peaceful way and were very unsuccessful."

Tanks were seen on vital bridges and around the General

Command. Guards were fully armed, and the army was said to be on full alert. But in general security was not increased on the streets of the capital.

The number of arrests was not immediately known.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported that the army planned to issue a statement on the accident.

In a dispatch from Khartoum, the agency said the coup involved junior officers but was masterminded by some retired officers. It did not identify those involved.

The agency said the government shut down Khartoum airport and cut communications with the outside at 4:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) Monday, apparently because of the attempt. The airport was reopened and communications resumed at 7 a.m. (1500 GMT), it said.

It quoted a source at the General Command as saying: "The situation has been brought under control."

The agency said Bashir and members of his 15-man junta followed measures to thwart the takeover attempt from command headquarters.

In late March, Khartoum's official Sudan News Agency reported that a number of civilians and military officers were arrested for allegedly planning a coup.

Later, Bashir was quoted as saying that only 20 people were involved and that investigations were under way.

The junta came to power last June 30

Turkish-Cypriots re-elect Denktash

NICOSIA (R) — Rauf Denktash, promising a tough line in unity talks with Greek Cypriots, romped to victory in presidential elections in Turkish-Cypriot held North Cyprus.

Denktash, leader of the Turkish-Cypriot community for the last 30 years, officially won 66.7 per cent of Sunday's vote. His main rival Ismail Bozkurt, accusing Denktash of failing to take unity talks seriously, picked up just 32.1 per cent.

Late Sunday Denktash said U.N.-sponsored talks with Greek-Cypriots, which broke down in February, could only resume after general elections in breakaway North Cyprus next month.

"We are an equal people with the right of self-determination," he told thousands of cheering supporters in a square of divided Nicosia.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal congratulated Denktash on his

re-election to the presidency. "I sincerely congratulate your re-election to the presidency as a display of the free will of the Turkish people of North Cyprus," Ozal stated in his message to Denktash, presidential press advised Kaya Toperi said.

"I see the confidence shown in you by the Turkish Cypriot people as a new demonstration of the determination needed to create lasting conditions for peace and security on the island," Ozal said.

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commander. Guards were fully armed, and the army was said to be on full alert. But in general security was not increased on the streets of the capital.

The junta came to power last June 30

called for the release of another American hostage within the week.

An Iranian source told Reuters in Tehran he expected another American to be released by Friday.

He said this should be followed by the release by Israel of Shi'ite Muslim cleric Abdul Karim Obeid, a senior pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) official, abducted by Israeli commandos in South Lebanon last year.

In Beirut, Hussein Musawi, an official of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, said Monday a second American hostage held in Lebanon could be freed soon if the conditions were right.

"The release (of a second American hostage) is possible but we don't know when, where, how and for what," Musawi told the Communist Voice of the People radio station.

"There should be something in return for such a step and the release of Obeid is not enough," Musawi said.

Obeid is among hundreds of Lebanese Shi'ite Muslims held by Israel. He was snatched by an Israeli commando from his South Lebanon village in July 1989.

The release of the Shi'ites from Israeli jails have been a major demand by pro-Iranian underground groups holding the hostages.

Before boarding the aircraft in Damascus, the 55-year-old cold-weather professor had said his unrelenting anger at his captors had kept him alive and sane.

Pohlill was the first American hostage to be released in Lebanon in nearly 3½ years, and he said his joy was tempered by the knowledge that seven others were still in captivity.

"I was angry at what was being done to me, being taken away from my wife and family," he told a reporter as he was being driven from Beirut to Damascus after his release. "And so I strived to continue being angry, knowing at all times that if I began to lose that anger I'd just sort of become a vegetable."

Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, said in New York after the release that Iran and the Shi'ite movements in Lebanon wanted a prompt reciprocal gesture. He specified the release Obeid.

But U.S. President George Bush said he was not making any goodwill gesture just because one hostage was freed.

"There are no deals, there are no negotiations with the hostage takers," he said.

In a Syrian TV interview, Pohlill said he was grateful to those who helped him, but added: "I'm still deeply concerned about my two friends and others who are still held in the conditions I was held in."

Pohlill said he played cards with other hostages during his captivity and tried to keep his mind off the possibility of freedom.

Guards outside the Summerland Hotel who witnessed the release said Pohlill stepped out of a car that screeched to a halt about 50 metres from the hotel.

He was immediately picked up by a three-car Syrian convoy

and driven off at high speed.

QADHAFI urges release of all hostages

In Libya, Col. Muammar Qadhafi called Sunday for the release of hostages in an appeal to Muslims around the world, the official Libyan News Agency (JANA) said in a dispatch about an hour after the reported release.

"I urge, once again, all those who are holding hostages to release them in fulfillment and application of the tolerant Islamic principles," the agency quoted Qadhafi as saying.

Pohlill's mother, Ruth Pohlill of Fishkill, New York, was overjoyed at news of the release and the prospect of seeing her son.

"Maybe I'll have control myself by that time," she told the U.S. television network CNN.

In a Syrian TV interview, Pohlill said he was grateful to those who helped him, but added: "I'm still deeply concerned about my two friends and others who are still held in the conditions I was held in."

Pohlill said he played cards with other hostages during his captivity and tried to keep his mind off the possibility of freedom.

"We seem to be in a period now where people are being released rather than taken, and of course that is grounds, I would say, for great optimism," said David Waite.

His brother, Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, disappeared in Beirut in January 1987 while trying to negotiate the release of American hostages.

The FAO report also recommended an airift to ease immediate food shortages in Eritrea, where the government-held area has been reduced to a landlocked enclave surrounded by rebel forces, but added that aircraft alone could not move the 30,000 tonnes of food per month needed

Former Kuwaiti MPs reject offer to reopen parliament

MANAMA (AP) — The speaker and 32 former members of Kuwait's dissolved parliament Monday rejected a proposal by the Emir of Kuwait for reopening the house with one third of its members appointed.

In a statement telefaxed to Western news agencies the former speaker, Ahmad Al Saadoun, declared in the name of 32 other former members that the new proposal was unconstitutional.

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in an apparent bid to placate disgruntled members of the past parliament dissolved in 1986, issued a decree Sunday night setting up a 75-member "transitional" legislature.

The decree said that 50 members of the body, to be called "the National Council," would be elected by secret ballot, with another 25 appointed by the government. There was no date set for the elections.

The council would have a four-year term during which "it will appraise our parliamentary experiment and propose steps for our future march of democracy," said the emir in a nation-wide radio and television address.

He said the decision emanated from "my historic responsibility and keenness on the stability and national unity of our people."

Pro-government newspapers hailed the development. Ahmad Jarallah, the widely read editor of Al Sayasah, wrote: "Kuwait's ship... has now reached safety ashore. The captain did not impose a non-Kuwaiti formula counter to Kuwait's conventions. He did not resort to tanks or jails..."

But some former deputies promptly rejected the proposal as an attempt to perpetuate the suspension of Kuwait's 1962 constitution envisaging a 50-



Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah

member elected legislature.

The constitution however, also allows cabinet ministers, not exceeding a third of the parliament members, to have voting rights during its debates.

Saadoun's statement said: "The National Council whose formation has been declared, has no place in the constitutional makeup."

"Its continuation for four years is but a continuation of the suspension of the constitution."

The activists spearheaded a campaign late last year for the restoration of the dissolved parliament. It was the only democratically elected body in the Middle East.

The body was dissolved following the sharp criticism by some deputies of government ministers.

The same situation had prompted an earlier earlier dissolution in 1976 for a four-year hiatus.

Stressing commitment to democracy as a way of life, the emir ordered his Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulllah Al Sabah in January to conduct a nationwide dialogue on a new formula that would avoid repetition of the earlier developments.

The emir's decree came less than a week after Sheikh Saad

presented to him a report on the outcome of his contacts with representatives of all sections of Kuwaiti society, including the 32 former activist deputies.

Sheikh Jaber said the decision to set up the new body was prompted by the "variety of opinions which should be considered carefully in order to choose the best for our society while benefiting from our previous experiments."

He also cited "the preservation of national unity and repulsing any attempt to undermine stability." Regional and Middle East circumstances "should boost our solidarity and collaboration so as to avert any sedition and its sinister effects which are still present," he added.

This was a reference to a spate of sabotage attacks by pro-Iranian groups in the course of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and tension on the Arab-Israeli front.

"We gave our proposal three years ago for a six-month ceasefire followed by elections. We are ready for those elections," Ahmadi said. The guerrillas rejected the ceasefire.

"They'll eventually come over to our proposal," he said.

The guerrillas have fought among themselves in recent years. They have come under heavy pressure from the United States and other financial backers to close ranks and come up with a political solution to the problem.

Afghan rebels call for non-party elections

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan's guerrillas agreed Monday to let President Najibullah test his popularity in nationwide elections, if the United Nations and organisation of Islamic countries conducted the balloting.

The vague proposal for a non-party election represented a major concession by the seven Pakistan-based guerrilla groups that have fought for 12 years to overthrow the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Some rebel figures say the talk of elections is a stall tactic by hardliners preparing for new military assaults after the spring thaw. The warmer weather is melting snow on Afghanistan's rugged mountain passes, allowing rebel fighters to resupply their positions inside the country.

Senior U.S. officials in Islamabad said guerrilla leaders have been warned their multimillion dollar weapons' pipeline could dry up next year.

Washington annually ships up to \$700 million worth of military supplies to the guerrillas, who are also financed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states. Moscow reportedly pumps billions of dollars worth of supplies to the Afghan government.

When Moscow withdrew its combat troops from Afghanistan last year, Western diplomats and guerrilla leaders predicted Najibullah would fall within months.

A year later, the guerrillas controlled nearly 80 per cent of the countryside but have yet to capture a major city. Najibullah's forces have failed to make significant military gains, leading to calls for a political settlement.

Ethiopian air raid on Massawa claims 55 lives

NAIROBI (R) — Bombing raids by the Ethiopian Air Force killed 55 people in the rebel-held port of Massawa Sunday, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said.

The Eritrean government estimates that 4.5 million people face possible starvation in northern Ethiopia this year due to the combined effects of drought and civil war. About half of them live in rebel-controlled areas.

Relief workers say food gets through soon, Ethiopia may face a catastrophe similar to that of 1984-85 when up to one million people starved to death.

Massawa was the main port for delivering food to northern Ethiopia and the only gateway for supplying government-held areas of Eritrea until its capture by the EPLF.

The government enclaves, where about a million people live, now depends totally on supplies flown from elsewhere in Ethiopia.

Recent visitors to Asmara say there is virtually no traffic because of a petrol shortage and water is being distributed by tankers as mains pumps have been turned off to save fuel.

"Cereal stocks will be exhausted within weeks," the FAO report said.

The FAO said some food was getting through to the rebel-held areas of Wollo and Tigray provinces, south of Eritrea, thanks to truck convoys across the battle lines organised by a consortium of church relief agencies.

The Joint Relief Partnership (JRP) began trucking food from Dassie, the capital of Wollo province, to territory held by the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) last month.

In operation, which aims to funnel 14,500 tonnes of food each month into the area, has the consent of both the government and TPLF but there is no formal ceasefire.

Food aid is also being trucked into areas controlled by the EPLF and TPLF from neighbouring Sudan, although the FAO did not mention this in its report.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:20	Kuwait (KU)
16:35	Moscow (SU)
17:30	Rome (AZ)</

30,000 to 50,000 expected to join march for peace

By a Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN — Between 30,000 and 50,000 people are expected to take part in an international peace march from Amman to Jerusalem in June, organisers said Monday.

The peace march, staged "from Amman to Jerusalem," is intended to be a "reaffirmation of the Arab and international will and desire for peace in the Middle East," according to Nidal Sukhian, president of the Jordan chapter of the Washington, D.C.-based American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

"It will be the first-ever public demonstration of the longing for peace in this area since Christ marched to Jerusalem 2,000 years ago," Sukhian told a press conference held at the Amman international stadium football grounds, where the march will begin on June 1. According to Sukhian, a Jordanian businessman, the message of the march is: "Tear down the walls of fear, suspicion, hatred and greed that reign supreme in the Middle East today."

Sukhian pointed out that the central slogan of the peace march will be "Palestinian statehood equals peace in the Holy Land," and will urge Israel to open peace negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). However, in answer to a question, he said there was no PLO involvement in the peace march except participation "as any other peace-loving organisation from anywhere in the world."

The political impact of the march, Sukhian said, "will be mostly on the forces of peace in Israel."

He said ADC research indicated that 57 per cent of Israelis favour "in one way or another, peace in exchange for occupied land." Another 18 per cent, he said, "are sitting on the fence undecided and could be convicted to join the peace camp."

Sukhian said "hundreds of international peace activists, human rights groups, anti-nuclear and anti-chemical weapon campaigners, religious leaders of all faiths, non-governmental organisations, international celebrities and former government leaders" were expected to take part in



Christian clergymen and members of parliament Monday lead a protest march in Amman against Israeli actions in Jerusalem (Petra photo)

Inter-faith group seeks U.S., Soviet action to deter Israel

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Muslim and Christian communities in Jordan joined hands Monday to stage a short march through the heart of Amman to register a strong protest with the United States as well as the Soviet Union against Israeli actions in occupied Jerusalem and the April 12 assault by Israeli forces on Christian clergymen in the Holy City, including Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodorus I.

In identical appeals delivered to the American and Soviet embassies in Amman, the two communities, represented by the General Islamic Congress on Jerusalem, the Catholic Church, the Inter-Islamic Council, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Royal Committee for Jerusalem and the Arab Orthodox Renaissance Society, expressed concern over the Israeli actions in Jerusalem, "especially the occupation of the Orthodox church buildings by extremist Zionist and Jewish settlers encouraged by the Israeli occupation authorities."

"These arbitrary practices call for the big powers, especially your government, to interfere to prevent these aggressions and put an end to the illegal practices taken against the pilgrims' hospice located in the vicinity of the Holy Sepulchre Church, and evacuate these settlers and restore peace to the religious places," the memorandum said. "We regret and condemn the brutal aggressions committed by these groups against His Beatitude the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem," it added.

"We hope that your government would condemn such irresponsible actions which threaten the freedom of worship and comply with the Israeli plan to Judaize the Holy City of Jerusalem and demolish its Muslim and Christian features," it said. The silent protest action which preceded the delivery of the appeals involved about 100 people holding banners condemning the Israeli violence against the Greek Orthodox patriarch and urging Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to grant "equal right of return to Jews and Palestinians." The reference was to the massive influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and possibilities that the bulk of them could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at the expense of the Palestinians.

The patriarch voiced appreciation to the King for the support he gives to the patriarchate and lauded King Hussein's dedication in defending its right. He expressed pride in the honourable and longstanding positions the Hashemite family always adopted since the days of the Caliph Omar Ibn Al Khattab. He recalled the strong ties between the Hashemite family and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, which is considered one of the Jordanian religious institutions in Jerusalem.

In their exchange with Mr. Theros, Bishop Khoury blamed the U.S. for Israeli actions in defiance of international norms and practices. "If your government wanted to stop the inhumane Israeli actions, it could," Khoury said. "But, you are the strategic ally of the Israeli government and you are to be blamed first before Israel."

At the Soviet diplomatic mission, it appeared that no senior diplomat was available to meet the protesters. The memo was handed over at the gate of the mission after about 10 minutes of silent vigil on the side of the street.

It was the second protest

staged in Amman in 10 days against Israeli actions in Jerusalem. A candle-light vigil was held April 13 in front of the American embassy, and a memo addressed to U.S. President George Bush was handed over to him.

The memorandum said:

"We regret and condemn the brutal aggressions committed by these groups against His Beatitude the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem," it added.

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The ice is too thin

THE U.S. House of Representatives appears to be poised to follow the example of the Senate and adopt a resolution recognising "united" Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Coming at a most sensitive phase in the Middle East, with prospects showing its colours, fade though they are, in the horizon of some movement towards settling the Palestinian problem, there has to be something really wrong with the thinking of American lawmakers prompting them to press ahead and endorse the resolution.

In the event that the House of Representatives, despite the timely warning of Senate minority leader Robert Dole who has acknowledged that the Senate's adoption of the resolution was a mistake, goes ahead and adopts the document, then all accusations levelled at the American Congress by Arabs, particularly those labelled as radical by Washington, would be proved true. For, how can one justify this total disregard for the feelings and sentiments of the one-billion strong international Muslim community which regards Jerusalem as its third holiest shrine, and the Christian faith for whom the Holy City is the holiest of all?

What is the peace that the Americans are furthering when they slam every Arab and Muslim by declaring Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, which occupied the Holy City by force? Isn't simple logic that instead of advancing the so-called peace process, such an American declaration will only strengthen the radicals among Muslims, Christians and Jews alike?

If indeed the American lawmakers are serious in their declared intentions to see that peace and justice prevail in the Middle East while also ensuring that the interests of their country are served, then they have one only option: Heed the advice of Sen. Dole and his like, and leave the question of Jerusalem to negotiations. They should understand that if the Palestinians have accepted Israel as a state, no Palestinian, Christian, Muslim or Arab, will compromise the status of Jerusalem as a city holy to all three monotheistic religions of the world. And for them no price is too high to resist any action which delivers Jerusalem in a platter to Israel.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily dwelt on the question of Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem and the U.S. Senate's endorsement of such illegal action. It said that Senator Robert Dole did not only condemn this action but also demanded that the Senate rescind the endorsement because it was an irresponsible move. Senator Dole admitted that his talks with King Hussein put him face to face with new realities of which he was not aware until then, about the status of Jerusalem and the situation in the occupied Arab lands, the paper noted. It said that the King's briefings to Dole have helped to enlighten the Senate, and brought about Dole's condemnation of the Senate's endorsement. King Hussein was careful to make things clear for the U.S. senator and the U.S. administration which, the paper noted, should shoulder serious responsibility towards the developments in the Palestinian issue. The paper said that the King was careful to point out the dangers inherent in the Senate's action in support of the Jewish state's illegal annexation of the Arab city, which the paper added, can only obstruct the course of establishing peace based on justice. Dole's condemnation, the paper added, should prompt the Arab states to launch a concerted action at all levels expound the Arab position and advocate Arab rights in Palestine.

Al Dustour daily discussed the situation in the occupied Arab region where the Israeli leaders are still squabbling over the formation for a new government while they are openly making plans for the absorption of new Jewish immigrants. The paper said that everyday brings to the Arabs further information about the Israeli government's open involvement in the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip despite denials by government leaders. The Israeli housing ministry, the paper said, has recently allocated sufficient funds with the approval of Yitzhak Shamir the caretaker prime minister to build new settlements on Arab lands and to occupy Christian and Islamic premises in the process of absorbing Jews from Eastern Europe. Shamir is trying to win favour for the Israeli electorate to form a new government once new elections took place in Israel and is trying to enhance the image of the Likud and foil attempts by Shimon Peres to form a government, the paper noted. Shamir's actions and his plans for new settlements, the paper noted represent a new formidable challenge to the Arab Nation and also a defiance of the U.S. administration which has been condoning all Israeli actions in Arab lands.

Sawt Al Shaab daily dwelt again on the question of an Arab summit meeting which the paper said is a must in view of continued Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries. The paper said that nearly 1,000 Jews arrive in Israel daily to settle on Arab lands and eventually provide the Israeli armed forces with further manpower needed for Israel's expansion at the expense of the Arab World. Whether the Arab summit was convened or not the Israelis will not put an end to their plans and they will continue to absorb more Jews and settle them in Arab territory, the paper continued. It said that the Israelis are preparing for war and have already distributed anti-gas masks and taken other precautionary measures against any kind of warfare, while the Arabs remain passive and seem to be indifferent to these developments. The paper said that in the face of these challenges the Arabs ought at least to convene a summit meeting to discuss plans for self-defence.

Strong economy, social welfare make democracy non-issue in Saudi Arabia

By Nick Ludington
The Associated Press

RIYADH — An old man wagged his finger at Prince Sultan, second in line to the throne, and complained that his soldier son was assigned to a base far from his home in Riyadh.

"But your son has obligations as a soldier," said the prince, who also is the Saudi defence minister. "He has obligations to his family," the man retorted. Sultan consulted his advisors and announced that the young man would be reassigned in Riyadh, the kingdom's capital.

The exchange took place during a "majlis," or consultation, Sultan regularly holds with the people. A foreign reporter was permitted to attend.

Most days, Sultan and the scores of other princes in Saudi Arabia's extended royal family open the doors of their palaces to the people. They listen to complaints on all manner of issues and settle disputes.

It's the nearest thing the Saudis have to democracy and there is little demand for more from the estimated 8 million citizens of this kingdom, which sits on one-quarter of the world's oil reserves. About 3 million foreign workers also live in Saudi Arabia.

Representative democracy is overwhelming Communism in Eastern Europe and making inroads in the Third World, including neighbouring Arab countries.

In Saudi Arabia, tribal tradition and huge oil profits let the royal family provide opportunity, public services and security that make democracy a non-issue.

The monarchy rules through wide consensus with all segments of society, ensuring the Saud dynasty's survival. Laws are based on the holy Koran.

Prince Majed, brother of King Fahd and governor of the Red Sea province that includes the holy city of Mecca, told reporters recently that Communism and other temporal ideologies "are false and contrary to human nature."

Free enterprise and generous social programme have been crucial in transforming a semi-nomadic society, with little upheaval, into a modern one with a strong sense of Islamic identity.

Saudi officials say King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, who founded modern Saudi Arabia in 1927, established the consensus rule on which the country's government is based.

Abdul Aziz is quoted as telling his sons the "thread" of consensus ties to the people is stronger than the "iron bands" of autocracy.

A Saudi journalist with access to one of the top princes said that, instead of creating a consultative council, the rulers decided a few years ago to expand the "open majlis" system with King Fahd, princes and top officials opening their palaces for regular meetings with citizens.

The atmosphere of the open majlis is informal. The king is not addressed as "your majesty" but as "Fahd," "Father of Faisal," or "waleed al umur," Arabic for "long life."

Religious leaders are brought in on important decisions to avoid dissension, and other important constituencies are consulted regularly.

An expert in Saudi affairs said the 1990-95 economic plan was circulated for two years in advance among businessmen, economists and others, and many alterations were made as a result.

"This gave a large number of key people the feeling and reality of participation," he said.

Saudis are concerned about tense relations with Iran, a major regional power, and about a new Arab-Israel conflict and the vulnerability of their oil facilities to bombing or missile attacks.

They have forged close security ties with the United States and are a huge market for Western arms sales.

The only significant internal opposition to royal rule is the Shi'ite Muslim minority in the oil-producing eastern provinces along the Gulf.

More beheadings and new mention of a majlis were decreed in 1979 after a group of fundamentalist fanatics seized the great mosque of Mecca. That event sent shock waves through the royal family, which pins much of its legitimacy to its piety.

The fundamentalists demanded an end to what they considered excessive Western influence in Saudi Arabia's rapid modernisation.

JORDAN TIMES

Tel: 667171

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Pass the pan-Arab springrolls

LAST week's anniversary of the riots and demonstrations that shook Jordan and ushered in the fresh era of political and economic change has been an opportunity for widespread comment on, a) why Jordan erupted last year, and b) what has happened since then. I believe it is insufficient to go back only to April 1989 to understand the causes of what is happening today, and it is also self-indulgently wrong to look only at Jordan.

Rather, our experience in Jordan — both good and bad — should be seen as an almost perfect microcosm of trends that have dominated most of the Arab World during the past 20 years. These trends comprise a fascinating and, at times, embarrassing combination of political and economic developments. If we review the performance of the Arab World during the decade from 1978 to 1988, we find a gruesome combination of rising foreign debt, static or declining standards of living, rising educational standards, and constricting parameters of personal and political liberties. The main trends were as follows:

— Governments bolstered by the vision of substantial and endless oil revenues spent freely, saw their people become addicted to consumer imports, and then started borrowing heavily in order to continue financing a spending spree that suddenly saw the collective Arab Gross National Product measured in hundreds of billions of dollars. The fact is, during the 1980s, the collective foreign debt of the Arab World increased from approximately \$42 billion to nearly \$150 billion, according to published figures which are certainly not always accurate. The real total Arab foreign debt is probably closer to \$200 billion.

In the case of Jordan, in 1988 we were widely quoting a foreign debt figure of around \$3-\$4 billion. When the full facts came out, our foreign debt was double this amount, at just over \$8 billion. How did this happen? How could a government entrusted with the wellbeing and future aspirations of millions of people hide \$4 billion in foreign debt from the people they were supposed to be serving?

— At the same time as foreign debt was rising sharply, standards of living started to drop after 1983, when the make-believe world of endless oil-fuelled growth came to an end. Throughout the 1980s, the average per capita Gross National Product of the Arab World declined by an annual average of 2.5 per cent per year. This means that the average value of goods and services produced by every

Arab person declined steadily during the past decade, due to the combination of rising population and stagnant or declining economic output. Some countries did register economic growth, but the majority declined, and therefore the net average for the entire Arab World was a net decline in per capita GNP — and please recall, this is the same Arab World which was heralded in the late 1970s as entering into one of history's most fabulous periods of wealth creation and economic growth.

This economic regression took place in both the oil-producing states and the non-oil producers. In the oil states, the magnitude of the decline could be camouflaged because of those states' ability to draw down their financial reserves in order to continue financing their annual budgets. Many oil producers started borrowing internally in the 1980s, and others resorted to international borrowing (some of it further camouflaged by borrowing through semi-state institutions, such as government-owned industries or financial funds, instead of straightforward sovereign borrowing by the government itself).

Furthermore, Arab governments spent hundreds of billions of dollars on military equipment which was either unnecessary or, when used in anger, more often than not was used against other Arabs, whether in domestic or regional circumstances. By the end of the 1980s, most Arab economies were characterised by economic adjustment programmes, foreign exchange shortages, government spending cuts, continued borrowing, drawing down reserves, rising unemployment and other factors that accompany economic adjustment programmes.

— The third key trend in the 1980s was the steady constriction of personal liberties and public political freedoms, as governments and ruling power elites steadily shut down or co-opted institutions or individuals who sought to offer a differing viewpoint than that espoused by the ruling power structure. This is how governments could hide the true magnitude of their national economic problems from their people.

Parliaments were closed or transformed into sorrowful rubber stamps; the press was transformed into a giant and totally non-credible public relations machine for government; universities and schools were turned into meaningless mass bureaucracies that turned out hundreds of thousands of people who

were not taught how to think for themselves, because their societies would not encourage such independent thinking after their graduation; and personality cults and hero worship became the pre-eminent political doctrine of the decade.

In Jordan's case, the mistakes of the past were implicitly recognised and admitted in post-April 1989 government moves reversing a range of previous measures, such as passport confiscations; banning journalists and writers; replacing the writer's association and the press management with pathetic, pre-programmed puppets and then trying to buy off the press with promises of higher salaries and other material benefits; firing employees for their alleged political views; and other excessive, often megalomaniac practices that were typical of the abuse of power that took place in many other Third World countries.

— The fourth constant in the 1980s was the cumulative increase in Arab frustration and humiliation, generated by domestic and regional factors over decades. These factors included, a) the ability of Israel and its American backers to force the Arab World into a stalemate of shame, with all of Palestine under Israeli control; b) the anguish of hearing much pan-Arab rhetoric amidst the reality of multiple and sustained inter-Arab conflicts and intrigues; c) the spectacle of political musical chairs, of Arab countries intermittently trying to unite with one another and then soon after degenerating into harsh confrontations, and sometimes even military clashes; and d) suffering the indignity of being denied meaningful opportunities by which ordinary people or members of national intelligentsias could participate in processes of discussion or electoral contests that would help formulate public policy. By the end of the 1980s, the average Arab was fed up, frustrated, humiliated and angry — but could not see a way out of the dilemma.

Arab governments themselves recognised the failure of both pan-Arab rhetoric and attempts to foment a narrow, state-based nationalism. The 1980s, therefore, saw the triumph of pragmatism in the form of sub-regional blocs (the GCC, ACC and Maghreb Arab Union), which aimed at more practical measures of cooperation and integration.

— While all these negative trends were taking their course, positive factors were generating a massive grassroots layer of tens of millions of people with a new attitude

that did not easily tolerate the negative trends. These Arabs, through literacy, basic education, rising expectations, private enterprise, and contact with the rest of the world through travel and the communications media, were not willing to see their children suffer the same problems and constraints that had afflicted their own adult lives. The combination of mass education, stability and rising standards of living which characterised the period from the 1950s to the end of the 1970s created a new Arab identity which would not long suffer the political and economic indignities of the 1980s. A clash was inevitable. How far when it would come was hard to predict, but it has come, and it has taken different forms in different countries.

Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Yemen and Kuwait are the countries where the initial signs of this change are most visible, in the form of free elections, credible parliaments, political pluralism, an increasingly free press, the rise of a normal domestic political infrastructure, and a sharp curtailment of the ability of governments to restrict the personal, political and human rights of their people. Other Arab countries will follow soon. Watch.

In most cases (Kuwait being the exception), economic hardship was the short-term spark that ignited the fuse of national transformation. But economic hardships, such as price rises and shortages due to economic adjustment programmes, have to be traced back to their full and true causes (i.e. all points above). Economic mismanagement and political shortsightedness finally reached their full and inevitable historical conclusion in the late 1980s. The economic crises which swept the Arab World after 1985 were not just economic crises, but rather a manifestation of political shortcomings and failures which could only be treated with a radical transformation of the domestic and regional political culture.

The model with which the Arab World should be equated is not Eastern Europe, but Eastern Asia. We are following in the footsteps of countries such as Taiwan and South Korea, where people who enjoyed economic prosperity but no parallel political development finally demanded pluralistic and open political systems.

It's a long way from Jordan and Algeria to Taiwan and South Korea. Or is it? Pass the springrolls.

Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



'Prisoners of Chernobyl' speak out after 4 years

By Andrew Katell
The Associated Press

NOVIYE GROMYKI, USSR — Smiling children skip along dirt paths, kicking up radioactive dust. They throw stones in their radioactive playground, then go home for contaminated meat and milk.

Since cesium, strontium and plutonium descended on their rooftops, gardens, farms and schools four years ago, the people of this Byelorussian village and of scores more in the Ukraine and Russia have been prisoners of Chernobyl.

They are surrounded and continuously bombarded by an enemy they cannot see, smell or hear. They say their government and the world have all but forgotten them.

In Bartolomeyevka, another village, a warm and hearty woman named Tatiana T. Kharshunova said: "They did this to us, and we had to live here. Not just for a month or two but four years. No one paid attention to us."

She and her neighbours grow potatoes and barley in their gardens, even though the radiation level is 40 curies, nearly three times the danger level. They can recite the figures like scientists, but do not seem fully aware of the threat.

"I'm as strong as a horse," Irina Y. Kovaleva said. She looked down at her 14-month-old grandson in her arms and added: "He's strong, too."

The boy and his parents were scheduled to be evacuated the next day.

"I'll cry when they leave," the grandmother said. "The cemetery is nearby, so I'll die and go there."

Nadezhda N. Dmitrochenko of the local governing council said she tries to explain the dangers of radiation, but "people still don't know what this is. It doesn't glow and it doesn't whistle."

On April 26, 1986, an explosion and fire destroyed one of four reactors at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, 200 kilometres southwest of Noviye Gromyki.

As the children of the village played on a sunny April day four years later, chickens and cats darted among the green and brown wooden huts.

The only sounds were chickens clucking, dogs barking and the distant roar of tractors plowing contaminated fields in the vast, fertile plain traversed by a creek.

The official death toll from Chernobyl remains at 31, but a Soviet newspaper said last fall it had risen to 250. Scientists still predict thousands of deaths will

HERE is a brief review of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and its aftermath:

THE ACCIDENT — On April 26, 1986, a fire started in one of the four 1,000-megawatt reactors of the nuclear power station at Chernobyl, 130 kilometres north of Kiev, capital of the Ukraine. A core meltdown and explosion followed, sending huge quantities of radiation into the atmosphere. The Soviet did not report the accident until two days later, after Scandinavian complaints of unusually high radiation levels.

EVACUATION — About 116,000 people were evacuated from contaminated parts of the Ukraine and Byelorussia, most from a 14-kilometre radius of the plant. A pass is required to enter the area. Last year, the government decided to evacuate 85 more villages in Byelorussia, 31 in Russia and 14 in the Ukraine.

DEATHS — Two people were killed in the accident and 29 are officially reported to have died of radiation sickness later. Yuri Scherbak, a Ukrainian member of the national parliament, and others say up to 250 have died. An official report commissioned in 1986 estimated 5,300 people would die over 70 years from cancer resulting from radiation exposure.

COST — Current estimates of cleanup costs are 30 times the original eight billion rubles (\$13 billion) at the official exchange rate. Surveys by the three republics affected indicate the cost may reach 250 billion rubles (\$405 billion) over the next decade.

PLANS FOR CHERNOBYL — The Ukrainian legislature decided this year that the plant, whose other three reactors are still functioning, should be closed by 1995. Specialists say shutting it down may take up to 10 years.

be traceable to the accident.

After years of passivity, the people affected are speaking out.

Residents of Gomel, the provincial capital, plan a strike and demonstration Thursday, the anniversary, to protest official handling of what the government newspaper Izvestia called "the greatest technological catastrophe" in world history.

Citizens of Kiev, the Ukrainian capital 130 kilometres south of Chernobyl, also plan demonstrations. A telethon to raise money for victims is scheduled in Moscow.

Protesters demand that officials who concealed the extent of the danger and delayed evacuating contaminated areas be brought to trial. They want medical care for victims and supplies of radiation-free food.

About 70 per cent of the Chernobyl radiation fell on Byelorussia and contaminated one-fifth of the arable land, an area where 2.2 million people live.

Immediately after the accident, about 25,000 Byelorussians were evacuated, but only last year did officials admit the full scope of the contamination and decide to resettle 100,000 more. The resettlement will take five years. People eat and breath nuclear poison in the meantime.

The programme appears poorly run. Some evacuees are being resettled on land that also is contaminated and the government is building new homes, schools and offices in areas that are being evacuated.

Most families with young children have been moved out of Noviye Gromyki since resettlement began Jan. 1.

Those still waiting feel abandoned and frightened. They cannot move on their own because housing must be found for them.

"We sit and cry," said Claudia A. Kostochka, 75, who was on a bench with two other women, sobbing. "They won't take us. We're pensioners."

I lived almost a whole century here, raised a son and daughter here. Two weeks ago they closed our store, so we're eating cabbage and cucumber preserves from last year. We don't know whether it's dangerous or not, but we have to eat."

Radiation everywhere

A farmer said the milk from his cows was too radioactive to

drink, so he sells it to the government, which makes it into butter. He said the butter was supposed to be safe.

Many others interviewed said they drank the milk because there was no alternative. Many more said they did not bother to check their home produce checked at a local radiation laboratory.

Soil and dust carry radioactive particles.

The only paved surfaces in Noviye Gromyki are one street and the grade school playground at No. 13 Lenin Street. Winds blow dust from the dirt roads and fields onto the asphalt and the people, and into their homes.

Residents are warned not to gather firewood from the highly radioactive forests nearby. Burning it makes their stoves into what specialists have called "mini-reactors."

Villagers are supposed to wash frequently, but they are allowed only one bar of soap a month, the same as anyone else. Soap is rationed in most of the country. Each household gets 30 rubles a month from the government to buy uncontaminated food, but it is hard to find. Thirty rubles are worth \$49 at the official exchange rate, but much less in reality.

In Vetska, a few kilometres south of Noviye Gromyki, children are fed "clean" meals at high school No. 1 and the crumbling cement floors are washed several times a day.

Outside, their protection against radiation consists of paved playground and a concrete barrier to keep them off the sidewalk where contaminated dirt falls from the roof. Students are supposed to rinse their shoes in a pan of water at the school entrance, but many don't.

Several students said they ignored warnings and rode bikes in the forest. They complained of headaches and exhaustion, which they blamed on fallout.

To the list of ailments the Chernobyl generation suffers, school principal Nikolai N. Shatilo added bloody noses, swollen thyroid glands and vision loss. The radiation level at high school No. 1 is two to three times normal.

"We can't provide normal conditions in school," he said. "There's only one thing to do: Take them to a clean zone. We must save the children. They are our future."

One student said she was bitter because no one seemed to care, nor even the doctors who examine her class twice a year.

A 16-year-old boy said: "We're sick and tired of all the checkups. What are they for? All they do is keep saying everything's normal."

Slum women win new lease in life

By William Onyango

NAIROBI, Kenya — A few years ago, they were poor landless women whose only source of income was prostitution and selling the traditional illicit drink "chang'a" — referred to here as "kill me quick" because of its lethal effects.

Today, the Humana women's group is a shining example of the determination of poor women from the Mathare slums of Nairobi to change their lives.

Their determination is yielding results on recently acquired plots of land where they are building houses. And they have won a \$14.5 million shilling (\$U.S.\$186,000) contract to make roofing tiles.

The Humana women's group began as a loose collection of women's self-help societies, under the auspices of the Undugu Society.

The Undugu (brotherhood) Society is best known for its work with disadvantaged street people from the grim Nairobi slums, concentrating on getting young boys off the streets and away from the temptations of crime and drugs. It was in that same spirit that the Undugu project became interested in the scattered women's groups.

Formed in 1988, Humana was registered as a self-help group with 240 members. According to its secretary, Perpetua Omari, "membership is open to all women who are poor or landless."

Initially, the women earned a living from small-scale hawking and vegetable selling. But their activities attracted the attention of an organisation known as Shelter Afrique which proposed that the women make roofing tiles.

"Our representative picked on roofing tiles because he was aware

of a ready market from Intermediate Technology Workshop (ITW)," said a Shelter Afrique spokesman. "ITW was looking for sub-contractors after winning a tender to supply roofing tiles for Nairobi's Komorock Housing Scheme."

Although Humana lacked expertise, Shelter Afrique organised training and within a few weeks the women were ready to begin business after receiving a loan from the Africa Housing Fund (AHF) — a programme sponsored by Shelter Afrique — which has to be repaid by the end of 1993.

Since March 1989, the women have been working round the clock in two shifts, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

They are determined to provide sufficient roofing tiles for the Komorock Housing Scheme. This scheme, in the words of Kenya's Lands and Housing Minister, PANOS.

Darius Mbela, "will be the largest single housing project in black Africa and will provide shelter for 10,000 house owners."

The women have moved out of the Mathare slums and thus away from the lifestyle which involved the selling of dairy products.

"The activity of making tiles has greatly improved the living standards of these poor women. Creating employment opportunities for them relieves them from unproductive activities," says Alfonse Mbaka, a freelance photographer in Nairobi.

According to Perpetua Omari: "The money they receive from the contract is sent to the group's account while some is paid to individuals as part of their monthly wages."

Some women with formal training work as bookkeepers, secretaries, business administrators and machine operators — PANOS.

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Reformists form new bloc

(Continued from page 1)

labour law in 1976 forcibly caused the merger of several unions and since then the federation has had 17 members.

Long-time union members claim that the merger was instigated by the minister of labour at the time in order to quell the growing power of union members. Unions and professional associations have served as an unofficial and sometimes underground platform for banned political parties and activists since 1987.

While three unions have historically been dominated by politically active unionists (mostly leftists), observers say that the federation has been run by unionists close to the "security apparatus and the Muslim Brotherhood movement for the last three decades."

Some union members attending Monday's press conference said they saw the announced leadership of the new bloc was only slightly more democratic than the federation's executive committee and that the reforms had to go much further than the memo indicated. But others disagreed.

Jordan urges changes

(Continued from page 1)

the ACC and then to embrace all Arab states who are willing to join.

Last February, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen signed an agreement for cooperation in the fields of oil and gas during a summit meeting of the four heads of state.

Egyptian Oil Minister Abdal Hadi Qandeel also delivered a speech in which he stressed the importance of peaceful co-operation agreements signed by the four members states to enhance Arab economic integration.

Taking note of threats to Iraq and the dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories, Qandeel said that Arab states should work towards increased self-reliance.

"Arab oil-producing states have a

long time," said one union member who has affiliations with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — Jordanian chapter. "We must now collaborate within the federation to create a new infrastructure and strengthen our links with the Ministry of Labour to change some of the labour law provisions which are totally out of touch with equality and democracy," he said.

Asked if the political character of the bloc was desirable, one unionist, who like most of the politically active unionists in Jordan has had more left and pan-Arab leanings, said he welcomed

the mixture.

"Our aim is reform here above everything else and having people of politically different shades actually adds to the movement's credibility," he said. "Leftists, traditionalists and Islamists have joined forces to ask for labour law reform and more rights for workers; it's a first," he said.

The bloc's leadership has contacted parliamentarians belonging to the Lower House's Democratic Bloc and are expected to meet with the minister of labour Tuesday to discuss the situation.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Bonn agrees to one-one conversion rate

BONN (R) — Bonn yielded to East German pressure Monday and agreed to convert East Germany's nearly worthless currency into West German marks at the highly favourable exchange rate of one-to-one.

Government spokesman Dieter Vogel said Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition had decided wages, pensions and some savings could be swapped at parity when the Germans enter a currency and economic union.

But he stopped short of East Berlin's demand that all savings be converted at one-to-one.

"The government and coalition have agreed after intensive discussions... on the outlines of a treaty with East Germany to establish a currency union and an economic and

social community," Vogel said in a statement.

"The West German government's offer reflects its sense of responsibility for economic and social developments in both parts of Germany and the stability of the D-mark," Vogel said.

Bonn's draft treaty, the text of which was not released, will be put to East Germany's new conservative-led government in formal negotiations starting soon.

East Germany has said it wants talks this week on a treaty covering economic, social and monetary union.

Both countries see currency and economic union as a prelude to full political unification.

Bundesbank overruled

The Bonn government appeared to have overruled the objections of the Bundesbank, the country's powerful and fiercely independent central bank, which had argued that a general parity rate would be too generous and stoke inflation.

The Bundesbank took part in two days of talks that produced Monday's agreement.

Bonn will offer to convert personal cash and savings of up to 4,000 marks (\$2,350) at one-to-one, twice the level proposed by the Bundesbank several weeks ago. Savings above 4,000 marks will be swapped at two-for-one.

Vogel said Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), its right-wing sister party the Christian

Social Union (CSU) and the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) were determined to achieve economic and social union by July.

Although Bonn's offer represented a concession overall, some of the details appeared likely to cause controversy in the talks with East Germany.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's government, elected last month in the country's first free vote after the downfall of the communist regime, want all savings to be swapped at parity.

It was also said workers and pensioners should be compensated for planned scrapping of subsidies and price controls on basic necessities as East Germany introduces a free-market system.

However, Vogel said that while wages would be converted at one-for-one, they would not be raised from current levels to compensate East Germans for higher prices. West Germans earn far more than East Germans even at parity rates.

Pensions will be raised to West German levels, meaning that workers will get a maximum of 70 per cent of their final net income after 45 years' service. Vogel said Bonn would make sure no pensioners were worse off after currency union.

The debts of East German companies would be converted into Deutschmarks at two-for-one.

The East mark currency trades on the black market at around five to one.

Have and have-not nations battle over trade, politics

nevertheless being taken seriously by the assembly — and by the United States, which reluctantly agreed to take part and whose assent is considered important.

As

the largest single foreign aid contributor, the United States is not entirely happy with any of the three draft declarations, from Bolivia for the non-aligned countries, from Canada and from Ireland for the European Community (EC).

"There is always a tendency to believe that the developing world needs to have too much delivered too rapidly without enough concern about domestic policy," said U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

Keeping to one side in discussions so far are Eastern European nations, who have recently announced radical economic changes, and according to U.N. studies, are expected to divert some resources from Latin America in the short term.

"They are not insisting their policies be endorsed or that the financing be necessarily promoted by the United Nations," said U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Goran Ohlin.

And East Germany, whose

Ambassador Siegfried Zachmann in the past has been a vocal spokesman in U.N. debates, is staying close to West Germany this week.

East Berlin's new right-wing economic cooperation minister, Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling, is flying to New York with his West German counterpart, Juergen Warnke, aboard a Bonn government aircraft in the first such joint international mission. They will coordinate speeches and appear at a joint press conference.

However, Ter Horst believes the "main challenge" of the special session is to integrate into the world economy nations in Africa and Latin America which have benefited the least from a revival of world economic growth and trade.

"Most of these countries today have moved from having invisible economies to being invisible societies," and are selling everything at any price to service the debt, he said.

"They are unable to think in long-term concepts and address their immediate survival — or their people, like their resources, will continue walking from south to north."

Power rationing cripples many Philippine firms

MANILA (Agencies) — The government cut power to 300 major buildings in Manila Monday as part of a new energy rationing scheme aimed at dealing with debilitating daily power shortages that are undermining national economic development.

Trading at Manila's twin stock exchanges went on, but banks cut working hours while offices with power generators maintained only skeleton staff levels, including multinationals in Makati, the country's financial centre.

Under the scheme worked out by government and the private sector, 302 government and commercial buildings which consume 100 kilowatts a day agreed not to use power from the national grid for five Mondays starting April 23 to May 28.

Officials said the rationing would enable the state-owned National Power Corp. to pump water into reservoir to guarantee electricity for the rest of the work week.

Factories, which have a separate voluntary power rationing programme, are not covered by the scheme. Restaurants, hotels and shopping malls using generators were operating normally.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Aurelio Periquet said businessmen backed the government's plan to ration power, but he said: "This will have a serious effect on investors."

"The country is on the skids," said Roy Nicolas, an analyst at Belson Securities. "The brokers might as well go back to farming since there is nothing happening in the bourses."

The power breakdowns have threatened to stall the country's economic development, already set back by last December's sixth and bloodiest army coup attempt against Aquino.

Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia said last week the Philippine real growth target of six per cent this year would have to be revised because of the effects of the serious power problem.

The private think-tank, Centre for Research and Communications, said growth this year might fall to about four per cent from last year's 5.6 per cent because of the power crisis.

The daily power outages affecting homes and offices last up to six hours daily.

Among the plans of the Task Force on Energy is a four-day work-week for five consecutive weeks for all government employees and selected private firms.

Homes and commercial establishments will continue to experience a series of two-hour electrical outages during the day.

Electricity in factories is being cut off one day a week for four hours starting 5 p.m., in a scheme euphemistically called a "voluntary curtailment programme," wherein owners are given a choice on which day they would like power to be shut off.

Committee officials said that these factories face an eight-hour electricity cut one day a week in case the energy crisis worsens.

Blame

The Aquino administration has blamed the power crisis on a drought and typhoons that damaged major electric plants. The last typhoon struck more than a year ago.

But major businessmen blame alleged incompetence in the Aquino administration for the power crisis, which they say is discouraging foreign investment despite government claims to the contrary.

National Power Corporation President Ernesto Abotiz said his office had foreseen the shortage since Aquino assumed the presidency in 1986. He said his proposals for alternative energy sources have not been approved by the executive.

On Sunday, Aquino told a nationwide radio broadcast that the economy had boomed because foreign investments came in and businessmen began to have confidence in her government.

"Our economy is surging forward because of our newfound freedom," Aquino said.

She urged all rebel forces to surrender "so that you can benefit from our progress that we all are experiencing."

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, April 23, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	(17.8	18.5
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	425.4	428.0
Pound Sterling	1097.0	1103.6	Dutch guilder	351.7	353.8
Deutschmark	395.7	398.1	Swedish crown	109.4	110.1
Swiss franc	449.7	452.4	Italian lira (for 100)	53.9	54.2
			Belgian franc	191.4	192.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6355/65	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1615/25	Deutsche mark	Dutch guilders
	1.6960/65	Swiss franc	Belgian francs
	1.9075/85	French francs	French francs
	1.4900/10	Italian lire	Japanese yen
	35.03/08	Swedish crowns	Swedish crowns
	5.6890/6940	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
	1244/1245	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
	157.60/70		
	6.1325/75		
	6.3625/75		
	6.4470/4520		
One ounce of gold	375.60/376.00		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Heavy selling in some leading industrial stocks pushed Australia's share market to a sharply weaker close. The All Ordinaries Index ended 8.9 points down at 1,483.2.

TOKYO — Share prices closed broadly down but off their lows in extremely thin trading as pre-holiday caution and worries about Wall Street declines drove players to the sidelines. The Nikkei Index closed 156.37 points down at 29,679.07.

HONG KONG — Consolidation after last week's strong performance kept trading in a narrow range and the Hang Seng Index shed 10.44 points to 3,056.86.

SINGAPORE — Prices fell further in the afternoon to close sharply lower on continued liquidation in quiet and thin trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 15.95 points to 1,504.61.

BOMBAY — Prices recovered from a weak start to finish higher. The Bombay Stock Exchange rose 5.21 points to 792.57. The National Index gained 1.70 to 419.76.

FRANKFURT — Plans for a broad swap rate of one-to-one in German monetary union further depressed a jittery market. The Dax index closed down 46.83 points at 1,837.50.

ZURICH — The Zurich stock exchange was closed Monday for a local holiday. Trading resumes Tuesday. On Friday, the All-Share SPI Index closed 3.1 points higher at 1,070.

PARIS — French share prices ended near their lows for the day in quiet trading, reacting to a sharp drop on Wall Street and profit-taking after a strong rally Friday. The CAC-40 Index ended 39.55 points lower at 2,089.77.

LONDON — Shares closed sharply lower in depressed trading after U.K. money data and a steep loss on Wall Street discouraged investors. The FTSE Index ended 27.9 points lower at 1,219.2.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks showed deep losses across the board amid investor concern about recent bond price losses and chance of an increase in U.S. interest rates. The Dow was off 34.24 points at 2,661.71 at 1700 GMT.

Agreements have been reached in opening the satellite and supercomputer markets and an agreement is said to be near on wood products.

Last year, Japan was cited for its closed markets in satellites, supercomputers and wood products.

Agreements have been reached in opening the satellite and supercomputer markets and an agreement is said to be near on wood products.

Some trade experts say that the good will be swapped at parity when the Germans enter a currency and economic union.

This included pledges from Japan to enforce its anti-trust laws more effectively and to make it easier for businesses to open up supermarkets and large stores, which would be more likely to stock foreign goods than Japan's many small shops.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Have-not countries will try this week to convince wealthier states that simply developing open markets will not turn their debt-ridden economies around — they need international help.

The U.N. General Assembly's five-day special session on economic cooperation that opens Monday will hear nearly every nation in the world attempt to steer future development programmes in its direction.

"Developed countries are trying to convince the developing countries that if they put their house in order everything will fall into place," said Enrique Ter Horst, a U.N. assistant secretary-general for development research.

"But those developing nations who have seen commodities prices fall for 10 years and have a high debt feel no internal policies will do the trick," he added.

"Actually both sides are right... but it is no coincidence that for the last 10 years over 70 countries have been suffering from the same symptoms," he said.

Arguments on a final declaration, which is no-binding, are

nevertheless being taken seriously by the assembly — and by the United States, which reluctantly agreed to take part and whose assent is considered important.

As the largest single foreign aid contributor, the United States is not entirely happy with any of the three draft declarations, from Bolivia for the non-aligned countries, from Canada and from Ireland for the European Community (EC).

"There is always a tendency to believe that the developing world needs to have too much delivered too rapidly without enough concern about domestic policy," said U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

Keeping to one side in discussions so far are Eastern European nations, who have recently announced radical economic changes, and according to U.N. studies, are expected to divert some resources from Latin America in the short term.

"They are not insisting their policies be endorsed or that the financing be necessarily promoted by the United Nations," said U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Goran Ohlin.

And East Germany, whose

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THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Henri

Ethiopians turn attention to world championships

LONDON (R) — Ethiopia's elite marathon runners, who enjoyed mixed fortunes in Sunday's Rotterdam and London events, turn their attention now to next year's Third World championships.

Abebe Mekonnen and Tesfaye Dadi finished second and third respectively in Rotterdam Sunday. But Belalyn Demsimo, who set the world best of two hours six minutes 50 seconds in Rotterdam two years ago, dropped out in his London debut.

The London and Rotterdam marathons were the last of the major northern spring marathons and the Ethiopians will now return home.

"It's a little tiring," coach Tolosa Kotu said last week. "They'll all rest and after that they start preparations for the world championships."

Ever since Abebe Bikila paddled barefoot through the warm, Roman night to win the 1960 Olympic marathon gold, Ethiopians have been to the forefront of world distance running.

Bikila became the first man to retain the Olympic title in Tokyo in 1964 and he was succeeded as champion four years later by

compatriot Mamo Wolde.

But in recent years the Ethiopians' efforts have been largely thwarted by their country's politicians, who have boycotted three of the last four Olympics.

Kotu, who finished fourth in the Moscow games 10,000 metres behind his compatriot Miruts Yifter, was a victim of the 1984 boycott.

Disillusioned, he turned to coaching and now concentrates on the 5,000 and 10,000 runners while Negusse Roba coaches the marathon exponents.

Kotu accompanied Demsimo and Dereje Nedi to London this year while Roba travelled with Mekonnen and Dadi to Rotterdam.

Stopping frequently to consult with Demsimo, as the world's fastest marathon runner relaxed on his hotel bed, Kotu optimised in an interview the Ethiopians' preparation.

Kotu said the selectors selected a squad after watching the Abebe Bikila memorial marathon, the armed force marathon and the police force marathon.

"We pick three groups of runners, including an elite squad of

10 to 15 people. There is also a second group and a third group of youngsters. From these groups we select two or three of the best athletes for the Tokyo, Rotterdam and London marathons."

"They undergo three months' special training in the high altitude of the capital city Addis Ababa," he said.

For two months the runners cover 160-180 kilometres a week in training, reducing the distance in the last month to concentrate on speed work.

A fresh squad will be selected this year after the three local marathons and preparation for the Tokyo world championships will start in earnest in September.

Kotu was prophetically pessimistic about his runners' chances in Sunday's race.

"It's too cold for us," he said, looking out of the window at the rain pelting down on the London streets.

The weather had not relented Sunday and the cold and the wet forced Demsimo to withdraw shortly after the halfway mark with ankle and tendon injuries.

Aguilera wins Nice Open

By Reuters

NICE, France (R) — Juan Aguilera of Spain continued his climb back towards the top of world tennis with a three-set victory over Frenchman Guy Forget in the final of the \$260,000 Nice Open.

Aguilera, ranked in the world's top 10 six years ago, won a sterile, rain-interrupted match played almost entirely from the baseline 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

So unadventurous was the play from both men that virtually every point was decided on unforced errors.

Aguilera made a lot in the first set as Forget went into a 5-0 lead but then the Spaniard steadied and waited for the Frenchman to crumble slowly.

"I was a bit nervous at the start and he began very strongly," Aguilera said. "But later I decided to be more patient and I think that changed it. I was able to win the points from the back of the court."

The crowd spent as much time looking up at the heavens to check the imminence of the next downpour as they did watching the match on centre court.

overturned the result of the match because of the incident, awarding Napoli a 2-0 win instead of a 0-0 draw. The result brought them level with Milan.

The Verona controversy overshadowed Dutch superstar Ruud Gullit's return to Milan after 11 months sidelined through injury.

The match went Verona's way in the half hour Gullit was on the field.

Gullit said: "We want to win this match. Now we're thinking about the Italy Cup," club manager Adriano Galliani said.

Trainer Arrigo Sacchi, Dutch internationals Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, and Alessandro Costacurta, were all dismissed by Sicilian referee Rosario Lo Bello.

Milan, who had been leading 1-0 at halftime finally went down 2-1, allowing arch-rivals Napoli to pull two points clear at the top of the first division with only one game remaining.

"We promised each other not to talk about the match, nor the title, nor even Le Bello and not even a 100 lire coin," Galliani said pointedly.

Two weeks ago a coin thrown from the crowd during a match against Atalanta hit Napoli's Brazilian striker Alemao.

The Italian football authorities

PSV, who have won the championship for the past four seasons, are level with Ajax on points, but the Amsterdam club, who drew at the weekend, have a game in hand with two weeks of the season to go.

PSV still have a chance of winning the Dutch Cup when the club meets Vitesse in Wednesday's final.

In Spain, Real Madrid, who have already secured the title, broke the Spanish goal scoring record by notching up 97 goals this season — one more than Barcelona's tally in 1958-59.

Welsh manager John Toshack said that with three games still to play he hoped his side would score 100.

Top scorer Hugo Sanchez knocked in two goals in Real's 3-2 draw with Logrones to make his total Europe's best at 35.

The Mexican said his ambition was to beat Telmo Zarra's Spanish scoring record of 36 for Athletic Bilbao in 1950-51.

In France, all-conquering Marseille have gone through their worst week since the start of the second division soccer next season.

The French champions, knocked out of the European Cup by Benfica Wednesday, had to hand league leadership back to Bordeaux on Saturday when they lost 2-1 at Paris St. Germain.

But, with four rounds to go in the French league Marseille have a game in hand and hope to reverse their fortunes on Wednesday when they travel to St. Etienne for a postponed match.

Also with four rounds to play, Bayern Munich look to be cruising in the Bundesliga title after stretching their lead at the top to five points despite a goalless draw with Fortuna Duesseldorf.

With the title race virtually over, attention has switched to the relegation battle which unusually includes Hamburg, a power in Europe at the start of the 1980s. The northerners have never been out of the Bundesliga.

Hamburg greatly improved their position with a 3-0 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach. But they are still one of four clubs on 25 points above bottom-placed Homberg, who are doomed to second division soccer next season.

Australian wins GGO

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) — Australia's Steve Elkington won the Greater Greensboro Open (GGO) Sunday, shooting at sizzling 31 on the back nine for a 6-under-par 66 and his first championship victory in three years.

Elkington rallied from seven shots behind Mike Reid, the third-round leader who couldn't muster a strong enough challenge.

"A long way back in the tournament, I was 4-over-par on my first nine holes and I made a long way back from there," he said.

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Seles beats Maleeva

Langer wins Madrid Open

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Bernhard Langer of West Germany shot a 5-under-par 67 yesterday to win the Madrid Open despite a career record 61 by Brett Ogle of Australia.

Langer's total of 18-under-par 54 gave him a one-stroke victory over Australia's Rodger Davis.

Davis knocked in a 60-foot putt for an eagle on the par-5, 15th hole en route to a 66.

Ogle finished third at 272, while Sweden's Magnus Sunesson, the third-round co-leader with Langer, slipped to a 70 and a 273 total for fourth place, his best finish as a professional.

"I wasn't missing many balls," said Seles, who extended her winning streak to 15 straight matches. "I know Katerina is a good clay court player and I was prepared to stay out there a long time. I just didn't make any mistakes."

Seles will take her winning streak to Rome for next month's Italian Open, where she will be up against the likes of Steffi Graf, Marina Navratilova, and exciting newcomer Jennifer Capriati.

Maleeva, the fourth seed, said the top-seeded Seles lifted her game in Sunday's final.

"The way she played today was not like she played in previous matches," said Maleeva, who beat French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez of Spain in the semifinals. "That happens quite often, a player raises her game."

Seles hit 30 winners to just nine for Maleeva, while the Bulgarian had twice as many errors.

Langer was given a free drop

that enabled him to get off his second shot with a full swing. Had he not been given the free drop, Langer said his backswing would have been impeded by a tree.

Langer collected the winner's check of \$75,600 from the total purse of \$454,000. It was his 21st European tour victory.

Ogle, who scored his first European tour victory three weeks ago in France, collected nine birdies and an eagle in shattering the record of 63 for the 6,981-yard, par-72 Puerta de Hierro golf club course. The record was set in 1980 by Seve Ballesteros of Spain, who failed to make the halfway cut this year.

Ogle ran off five birdies over the first eight holes in carding a 31 for the front nine. After that, he had birdies on the 11th and 18th holes before his eagle on the 15th, where he hit a seven-iron to within five feet.

Knocked in a 15-foot putt on the par-3, 17th, then hit a seven-iron to within 15 feet on the par-5, 605-yard 18th and got down in two.

The score also equalled the European tour record for 11-under-par for a par-72 course set by Roger Chapman of England in 1986 and matched by Jose Maria Canizares of Spain in 1987, both at the high-altitude cross-sur-sierre course in Switzerland.

"It's a pity that you can't play golf like this every day," Ogle said with a smile.

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Mobs attack police in Kathmandu; 10 killed

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Mobs attacked police throughout the city Monday, accusing them of failing to provide law and order since democratic reforms were instituted two weeks ago. At least 10 people were killed in the clashes.

Six policemen were beaten to death and four civilians were killed when police opened fire at several places in the city, witnesses and doctors said. At least 72 people were hospitalized with injuries.

It was the worst violence since police opened fire on pro-democracy demonstrators on April 6. Witnesses said scores were killed in that clash two weeks ago, but the government reported 10 people had died nationwide.

The April 6 clash prompted King Birendra to lift a ban on opposition parties, one of the key demands of a burgeoning pro-democracy movement. Last week, the pro-democracy movement culminated in the dissolution of the country's non-party parliament. A new opposition-led coalition government was formed and multiparty elections are planned.

But the capital was rent by new clashes Monday between police and protesters. The trouble started when several hundred men marched toward the royal palace, with a pushcart carrying three unconscious and bloody

The crowd beat the three men, claiming the men were police officers who belonged to an outlawed right-wing gang once allied with the monarchy.

Two of the men died and were identified as policemen after their bodies were brought to Bir Hospital, where the third man was in serious condition. His identity was not immediately known.

The mobs said the three men were members of Mandale, a group of that once supported the



King Birendra

injured in the stampede as crowds dispersed, the doctors said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Police imposed a curfew in Kathmandu. By late Monday afternoon, the city was tense but violence was subsiding.

Earlier Monday, irate residents beat 12 suspected Mandale members and then set fire to four police jeeps, accusing the police force of failing to protect them, a cabinet minister said.

When the minister, Yogi Prasad Upadhyay, and Nepal's top police official, Hem Bahadur Singh, went to scenes of the beatings, they were surrounded and detained by hundreds of people.

The crowd forced the officials to address a public meeting and later pelted their jeep.

Upadhyay promised to investigate the Mandale, whose name means "group" in the Nepali language. Its members are called Mandales.

The mob which surrounded Upadhyay and the police chief accused the police force of harbouring Mandale supporters.

The rest had been beaten or

Chinese premier in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Chinese Premier Li Peng arrived in Moscow Monday on the first visit in 26 years by a Chinese head of government to the Soviet Union. China's longtime rival for leadership of the Communist world.

Li was met at the airport by Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov and Foreign Minister Eduard Sverdlov.

The four-day trip is intended to promote normal, friendly relations and an easing of border tensions at a time when both countries are confronted with serious internal problems.

"Li's visit to the USSR underscores the importance of continuing the Sino-Soviet dialogue at the summit level, which began a year ago and signalled the normalization of relations between the two countries," Soviet News Agency TASS said.

The 61-year-old premier was expected to hold at least two rounds of talks with President Mikhail Gorbachev, who last May went to China in the first visit by a Soviet leader in three decades.

"I will be exchanging views with President Gorbachev, Chairman Ryzhkov and other comrades from the Soviet leadership on matters concerning bilateral relations and on major international issues of common concern," Li said at the airport.

The two sides are expected to sign an agreement on fostering bilateral trade and will lay down guiding principles on easing military confrontation along their 7,000-kilometre frontier.

TASS said both the Soviet Union and China have shown readiness to reduce troops deployed in the area of the Soviet-Chinese border and have agreed to a treaty on the reductions.

There are 500,000 Soviet and more than 1 million Chinese troops along the border.

Other subjects likely to be on the agenda for this summit are the war in Cambodia, where Moscow and Peking support opposing sides, and the situation in East Europe.

Li and Gorbachev may also discuss ethnic unrest, particularly among Muslim minority groups living on both sides of the Sino-Soviet border in Central Asia.

Cambodian rebels retake 3 government positions

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (Agencies) — Cambodian guerrillas said they overran three important government positions Monday in an attempt to retake Svay Chek, a strategic northwestern town reduced to charred rubble by fighting in recent months.

A force of some 2,000 guerrillas began attacking Svay Chek Sunday morning, said Ok Serei Sopheap, spokesman for the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), one of two non-Communist factions in the three-party guerrilla alliance fighting the Phnom Penh government.

The 38 guerrilla commandos were guided into Sisophon by government defectors, he said.

The guerrillas say if they can retake Svay Chek they will have recovered all the territory they lost in a government counteroffensive that began in February.

Some 15,000 people lived in Svay Chek before it became the focus of heavy fighting. The town was burned to the ground after guerrillas attempted to retake it in early March. Guerrillas and Western sources say no buildings remain standing there.

Communist reformer wins free elections in Slovenia

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (AP) — Communist reformer Milan Kucan scored a resounding victory in Slovenia's runoff presidential election as Yugoslavia held its first free, multiparty elections in half a century, according to the latest results Monday.

Almost four million voters in the northern republics of Slovenia and Croatia took part in Sunday's polls, considered crucial for the future of Yugoslavia's fragile, Communist-led federation.

In Slovenia, with almost all of the 1.1 million votes counted, Kucan comfortably led with 58.39 per cent. His opponent Jozef Pucnik, head of the centre-right five-party Demos Coalition trailed with 41.6 per cent of the votes.

In neighbouring Croatia, the reformed Communist Party — now named the Party for Democratic Change — was reported running neck-and-neck with the centre-right Croatian Democratic Union.

With less than a fifth of the votes in 81 constituencies counted, the union was leading in 39, and the Communists in 36.

The middle-of-the-road Coalition of National Accord was ahead in only six constituencies, according to preliminary figures released by the state electoral commission.

Some 80 per cent of Croatia's 3.5 million eligible voters had cast their ballots Sunday for the 116-seat Chamber of Counties and the 80-seat Socio-Political

Demos and the Croatian Democratic Union are accused in the Communist-led state of Serbia of being extreme nationalists and of planning to secede from the rest of the country.

Tudjman, a former Yugoslav army general who spent a total of five years in jail for "counterrevolutionary activities," denies this, saying his party favours a system in which all six republics would have "full sovereign rights."

But observers generally agree that the traditional rivalry between Croatia and Serbia will almost certainly be exacerbated if Tudjman's party wins a majority in the Croatian parliament.

Millions rally to show concern for planet

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Tens of millions of people rallied around the globe for Earth Day 1990 in a massive outcry to defend the threatened planet.

What began as an exercise in ecological awareness on U.S. university campuses in 1970 turned on its 20th anniversary Sunday into a worldwide display of concern over the future of mother nature.

In cities from Tokyo to New York to San Francisco, tens of thousands gathered in parks to listen to music and speeches. Organizers in Boston had expected only 50,000 people for a concert and environmental fair on the banks of the Charles River, but more than 100,000 showed up.

Politicians, ecologists and Hollywood stars joined a huge rally in Washington aimed at sparking a new decade of environmental activism. Police said some 125,000 people jammed a mall between the Capitol and the Washington Monument.

"You can change things. We must change things," actor

Tom Cruise, who opened the event, told the crowd.

Smaller gatherings were held in thousands of communities around the world.

In the ancient Indonesian city of Jogjakarta, environmentalists gathered to read poetry and plant trees. Hundreds of schoolchildren planted roses and jasmine at a park in Indonesian and Japanese divers pulled garbage from the ocean.

Organizers estimated that at least 100 million people in 140 countries participated in some way in Earth Day events.

"The purpose of the day was to launch a decade of the environment, to expand the support of existing organizations and generate a new generation of young activists," said Teresa McGaughan, international coordinator for Earth Day 1990.

"I think it went much, much beyond what any of us ever would have expected, especially internationally. It just had a snowball effect and went far beyond what we guessed might happen," she said, summing

up more than a year of international organizing from a storefront office in Palo Alto, California.

In New York, more than 10,000 environmentally conscious New Yorkers jammed Times Square to listen to speeches and dance to instrumental new age music. At least 500,000 attended a concert in Central Park.

U.S. President George Bush, on a fishing vacation in Florida, said at a ceremony timed to coincide with Earth Day that he would push for protection of coral reefs along the state's coast.

More than 90 environmental groups hosted Japan's biggest Earth Day festival, on Tokyo's Yumenoshima, or "dream island," constructed on landfill. The entrance fee was 10 yen per person.

In Brazil's southern city of Curitiba, ecologists marked a minute of silence in memory of rubber tapper Chico Mendes, who was murdered in December 1988. Mendes had fought to

preserve Brazil's Amazon rain forest against clearing and burning.

"Brazil's Amazon is the last great tropical reserve in the world," said Brazilian ecologist Orlando Valverde in Rio de Janeiro. "Here in Rio we must lead the fight to preserve the Amazon. To destroy it would bring devastating consequences to the world."

In the Amazon state of Para, 120 species of trees were planted.

Hong Kong residents paraded through the concrete-bound colony to a carnival in Kowloon Park, a grassy knoll until authorities last year covered most of its with cement.

The one disappointment of the day was the failure of U.S., Soviet and Chinese climbers to reach the top of Mount Everest. Mountaineers representing each of the three nations had planned to reach the summit simultaneously in a gesture of peace and to emphasize the need to clean up the environment.

COLUMN

Model declares love for Trump

NEW YORK (AP) — Model Marla Maples has declared her love for Donald Trump on national television, but declined to characterize her relationship with the developer whose billions are in the sights of his estranged wife. Maples, said to be the "other woman" in the much-discussed divorce case of Donald and Ivana Trump, spoke during a recent interview.

She would not say how she met Trump, nor would she comment on a reported confrontation she had with Mrs. Trump in Aspen, Colorado, where the Trumps vacationed last year. "Only the two of them know what really went wrong with their marriage. But I'm not the reason for that marriage having problems," she said.

Nicholson announces birth of daughter

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jack Nicholson and actress Rebecca Broussard have announced the birth of a girl. Lorraine Broussard Nicholson was born at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, said publicist Paul Wasserman. Miss Broussard plays a secretary in his movie *The Two Jakes*. The couple met on the set of the Chinatown sequel, due for release in August. Nicholson, who won Oscars for performances in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Terms of Endearment*, most recently played the Joker in *Batman*.

Brain-dead infant gives life to sister

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Timothy and Paula Whisman thought their hands would be full with two demanding infants by now. Instead, their arms are acting to hold one newborn daughter, who clings to life because of her twin brother's heart.

Alison Page Whisman was born on April 10 with a fatal heart condition. Her brother, Tyler, was born brain dead minutes later. Doctors saved the girl's life by giving her Tyler's heart in

India controls two-thirds of Kashmir and is the remaining one-third, for a plebiscite on the future of the state, which has a population of 10 million and a land area larger than Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria and Albania combined.

"Military logic dictates that you should have at least a two-to-one advantage before you go on the offensive. It would be foolish for Pakistan to start anything," Enright said.

Pakistani officials are worried that India, frustrated by its inability to suppress the latest uprising in Kashmir, may decide to go to war to settle the problem for good.

Despite talk of war, Enright said he did not think it would happen. He also did not believe the uprising in Kashmir against Indian rule would die down.

Liz Taylor in stable condition

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor remains hospitalized in stable condition with pneumonia, her publicist says. Miss Taylor, 58, who was admitted on April 9 with a sinus infection to Daniel Freeman Hospital, was transferred to St. John's Hospital and Health Centre because of a persistent fever and pneumonia. Instead, their arms are acting to hold one newborn daughter, who clings to life because of her twin brother's heart.

Another bit of icing on the East German cake is the official exchange rate for tourists — three East marks for every West German mark. The rate is even better on the black market — six East marks for a single West German mark.

Consequently, West Germans have been mobbing border towns like Muehlhausen, buying up all kinds of bargain-priced goods — from wrist to tire irons.

"It's not fair when you have to wait in a long line and then find out everything you wanted is gone," said Barbara Weber, Uwe Fritsch's sister, who works with him at the electronic goods shop.

On one recent day, a West German family loaded up their mobile home with armloads of meat and trucked it back home, presumably for freezing.

What really irks many Mehlhausen housewives, said Roswitha Vogler, who works at the local butcher shop, is stiff competition for seats at the beauty parlour.

"On Saturdays there isn't a single place left," she said.

African queen sculpture sells for record \$3.41m

NEW YORK (AP) — A 19th century African sculpture of a Bangwa queen fetched \$3.41 million, a record for a piece of tribal art sold at auction, Sotheby's announced. The 82.5-centimetre wooden figure of a regal, standing woman was bought by an anonymous private collector, said Laura Stewart, a spokeswoman for the auction house.

The front, which claims some 800,000 members, is widely seen as the main contender, drawing support mainly from industrial workers and former Communist Party members.

A major opposition figure said Sunday that fugitive members of Romania's secret police were making death threats against voters ahead of free elections.

Peasant Party leader Cornelius Coposu said voters in rural parts were being intimidated by former members of the Securitate secret police force which kept Ceausescu in power.

Meanwhile, Ion Ratiu, a wealthy industrialist who returned from 50 years in the exile to a bid for power on behalf of the Peasant Party, became the third, official presidential candidate.

Ionescu and National Liberal Party leader Radu Canepanu had already secured the 100,000 signatures of support required to register as an official candidate.